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ANOTHER EXCELLENT WHEAT CROP EXPECTED IN TENNESSEE

Based on a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee's winter wheat producers are anticipating above average yields for the third straight year. The average State yield is forecast at 55 bushels per acre, the same yield as last year, and the second highest yield on record. Wheat yields averaged only 42 bushels per acre for the 1990 through 1998 period. If realized, this will result in total production of 19.3 million bushels, down 8 percent from 2000. As of May 1, 79 percent of the State's acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition, with no major problems with disease or insects reported. The crop received adequate moisture during March and most growers had completed their fertilizer applications by the first of April. Cool, wet weather earlier in the year hampered overall crop development, but sunshine and warmer temperatures during April lead to a steady improvement. At the current time, the majority of the crop has headed and harvest is expected to begin on schedule around the middle of June.

Tennessee growers seeded a total of 520,000 acres last fall and intend to harvest 350,000 acres for grain, down 30,000 acres from last year. Less than ideal planting conditions last fall and normal crop rotations were the main reasons for the drop in acreage. The remaining 170,000 acres will be used as a cover crop or cut for hay and silage.

U.S. Winter Wheat

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.34 billion bushels, down 14 percent from 2000 to the lowest level since 1978. All classes of winter wheat are down from the previous year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 41.8 bushels per acre, 2.8 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 32.1 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., MAY 1, 2001 WITH COMPARISONS [1]

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	1,100	1,040	54.0	53.0	59,400	55,120
Georgia	200	220	54.0	48.0	10,800	10,560
Kentucky	420	340	57.0	58.0	23,940	19,720
Mississippi	235	170	55.0	48.0	12,925	8,160
Missouri	950	780	52.0	50.0	49,400	39,000
North Carolina	550	550	50.0	45.0	27,500	24,750
TENNESSEE	**380**	**350**	**55.0**	**55.0**	**20,900**	**19,250**
Virginia	205	175	63.0	62.0	12,915	10,850
United States	35,022	32,088	44.6	41.8	1,562,733	1,341,381

[1] 2001 forecast, 2000 final.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS AT 12-YEAR HIGH

Stocks of all hay on Tennessee farms totaled 804,000 tons on May 1, 2001, the highest amount on hand since 1989. Record hay production in 2000 and mild conditions during the latter part of winter led to the increased carryover. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2000, to April 30, 2001, totaled 2.60 million tons, 27 percent more than the 1999 crop disappearance of 2.05 million tons for the same period. An increase in the State's cattle herd and a late summer drought, which forced many livestock producers to start feeding hay earlier than normal, were the main reasons for the increased usage.